GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2745
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMME
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to launch National Tobacco Control Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said programme is likely to be launched;

(d) whether there is also any proposal to form a Central Tobacco Regulatory Authority to monitor and to implement the Tobacco Control laws; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e): Government of India has launched the pilot phase of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 2007-08. This program envisages building capacity of States and greater awareness through mass media/IEC campaign, etc. The pilot phase of the programme has been launched in 18 districts of 9 States. The proposed national programme broadly includes-

1. Capacity building of the State in the effective implement of the tobacco control act, 2003. It is proposed to set up State Tobacco Control Cells and District Level monitoring cells;

2. Train health workers, school teachers, etc. on ill effects of Tobacco;

3. Engage NGOs, to carry out school programme in the Government Schools;

4. Mass media / IEC campaign, tailored to regional needs;

5. Capacity building laboratories for tobacco product testing.

The approval of competent authority for the launch of NTCP is under active consideration. The modalities of establishing the Tobacco Regulatory Authority is also being worked out.